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ACTION AF-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	DINT-00	DODE-00
	DOE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EUR-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	VC-00
	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	LAB-01	L-00	VCE-00	AC-01
	NSAE-00	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00
	P-00	SP-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00
	DRL-02	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/007W		

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FM AMEMBASSY HARARE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7481  
INFO NSC WASHDC PRIORITY  
SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 HARARE 006120

SIPDIS

NSC FOR SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR GAYLE SMITH  
LONDON FOR CGURNEY  
PARIS FOR BISA WILLIAMS  
PASS USAID FOR AFR/SD - DWELLER, AND AFR/SA - CPALMA,  
NNEWMAN

NAIROBI FOR PFLAUMER

PASS USTR - ROSA WHITAKER

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/31/10  
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PINR](#) [ZI](#) [ZANU](#) [PF](#)  
SUBJECT: A ZANU-PF DEPUTY MINISTER AND MP'S INSIDER VIEW  
ON THE MUGABE SUCCESSION ISSUE

CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR MCDONALD. REASONS 1.5 (B) AND  
(D).

1. (C) SUMMARY: ZANU-PF DEPUTY MINISTER (ENVIRONMENT AND  
TOURISM) AND MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT EDWARD CHINDORI-  
CHININGA PAID A CALL ON AMBASSADOR MCDONALD ON OCTOBER  
30 TO UPDATE HIM ON HIS MINISTRY'S LATEST ACTIVITIES.  
CHINDORI-CHININGA, WHO IS PART OF THE YOUNGER GENERATION  
OF ZANU-PF POLITICIANS, SHARED HIS INSIDER VIEWS ON THE  
MUGABE SUCCESSION ISSUE WITH THE AMBASSADOR. HE STATED  
THAT THERE ARE CURRENTLY TWO SIDES TO THE QUESTION OF  
MUGABE'S ROLE IN ZANU-PF. ONE SIDE SAYS THE PRESIDENT  
MUST RETIRE. ZANU-PF WILL AMEND THE PARTY CONSTITUTION  
TO ALLOW MUGABE TO REMAIN AS HEAD OF PARTY, BUT THAT A  
NEW CANDIDATE WILL BE FOUND TO RUN FOR PRESIDENT OF  
ZIMBABWE IN 2002. THE OTHER SIDE SAYS THAT IT IS  
ALREADY TOO LATE TO FIND A NEW CANDIDATE WITH NATIONAL  
STATURE TO RUN FOR PRESIDENT OF ZIMBABWE IN 2002, SO  
MUGABE WILL HAVE TO BE THE PARTY'S CANDIDATE. ACCORDING  
TO THE DEPUTY MINISTER, THE SIDES ARE NOT DIVIDED ALONG  
GENERATIONAL LINES, BUT RATHER BASED ON THEIR VIEW OF  
HOW ZANU-PF CAN MAINTAIN CONTROL OF THE PRESIDENCY. END  
SUMMARY.

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ZANU-PF: A PARTY DIVIDED

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2. (C) AMBASSADOR MCDONALD TOOK ADVANTAGE OF HIS MEETING  
WITH CHINDORI-CHININGA, WHICH WAS INITIATED BY THE  
DEPUTY MINISTER TO DISCUSS HIS MINISTRY'S ACTIVITIES  
(REPORTED IN SEPTEL), TO ASK HIM HIS VIEW OF EVENTS  
WITHIN ZANU-PF, AND IN PARTICULAR THE QUESTION OF WHAT  
WAS THE INTERNAL DEBATE WITHIN THE PARTY REGARDING THE  
QUESTION OF MUGABE'S FUTURE. THE DEPUTY MINISTER IS ONE  
OF THE GROUP OF NEW YOUNGER MPS OF ZANU-PF WHO ARE  
FORWARD THINKING AND PROFESSIONAL IN THEIR OUTLOOK, AND  
WILLING TO EXPOUND ON THIS ISSUE. WHILE NOT TIPPING HIS  
HAND, CHINDORI-CHININGA REVEALED THAT THERE ARE TWO  
SIDES WITHIN ZANU-PF REGARDING THE ISSUE OF MUGABE AND  
HIS POSSIBLE CANDIDACY FOR THE 2002 PRESIDENTIAL  
ELECTION. THE TWO SIDES ARE NOT BASED ON A GENERATIONAL  
DIVIDE WITHIN THE PARTY, AS WE EXPECTED TO HEAR, BUT  
RATHER APPEARED TO BE BASED ON ZANU-PF POLITICIANS'  
VIEWS AS TO WHAT CANDIDATE WOULD MORE LIKELY ENSURE THAT  
THE PARTY RETAINS CONTROL OF THE PRESIDENCY.

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ONE SIDE: A GRACEFUL RETIREMENT FOR MUGABE

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13. (C) ONE SIDE OF THIS ISSUE BELIEVES THAT IT IS TIME FOR MUGABE TO RETIRE AND THAT HE SHOULD NOT BE THE PARTY'S CANDIDATE FOR THE 2002 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS. IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FOR A FACE SAVING EXIT FOR MUGABE THEY WOULD HAVE HIM STAY ON AS ZANU-PF'S PRESIDENT, BUT THE PARTY WOULD PRESENT A NEW CANDIDATE FOR THE 2002  
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ZIMBABWE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS. THIS PLAN WOULD REQUIRE A CHANGE IN THE ZANU-PF PARTY CONSTITUTION SINCE IT PRESENTLY STATES THAT THE PARTY'S PRESIDENT WILL BE THE PARTY'S CANDIDATE FOR THE NATION'S PRESIDENCY. CHINDORI-CHININGA DID NOT APPEAR TO BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE THAT DIFFICULT TO GET THE SUPPORT TO CHANGE THE PARTY'S CONSTITUTION IN THIS MANNER. THIS PLAN WOULD ALLOW MUGABE TO REMAIN AN ELDER STATESMAN OF PARTY POLITICS, WHILE ALLOWING A NEW CANDIDATE WITH GREATER APPEAL, AND WITHOUT THE NEGATIVE BAGGAGE OF MUGABE, TO REPRESENT ZANU-PF IN THE 2002 ELECTIONS.

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THE OTHER SIDE: TOO LATE TO CHANGE  
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14. (C) THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DEBATE IN ZANU-PF BELIEVES THAT IT IS TOO LATE TO DUMP MUGABE AS THE PARTY CANDIDATE FOR THE 2002 ELECTIONS. THIS GROUP BELIEVES THAT NO ONE IN THE PARTY HAS THE NATIONAL NAME RECOGNITION OF MUGABE OR THE SUPPORT OF THE DIVERSE ELEMENTS WITHIN THE PARTY STRUCTURE. THEREFORE, WHAT IS NEEDED IS FOR THE PARTY TO CLOSE RANKS AND SUPPORT MUGABE AGGRESSIVELY AS THE PARTY'S CANDIDATE FOR 2002. THE AMBASSADOR ASKED CHINDORI-CHININGA HOW HE THOUGHT THIS SIDE OF THE PARTY COULD BELIEVE THAT MUGABE WOULD

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INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	DINT-00	DODE-00
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	DSCC-00	DRL-02	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/007W	
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P 311116Z OCT 00  
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BE THEIR BEST CANDIDATE WHEN RECENT POLLS INDICATED THAT THE PROBABLE MDC PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE MORGAN TSVANGIRAI WOULD TROUNCE MUGABE IN FREE AND FAIR

SIPDIS  
ELECTIONS. THE DEPUTY MINISTER JUST SHRUGGED HIS SHOULDERS IN RESPONSE.

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IDENTIFYING AN ALTERNATIVE TO MUGABE  
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15. (C) THE EASE-MUGABE-OUT FACTION WOULD IDENTIFY A NEW CANDIDATE FOR THE PARTY FOR 2002 BY TURNING TO THE PROVINCIAL PARTY STRUCTURES AND ASKING THEM TO EACH

SUBMIT A LIST OF WHO THEY WOULD SUPPORT AS A NEW CANDIDATE. THE PARTY LEADERSHIP WOULD THEN CROSSCHECK THESE LISTS, AND IDENTIFY THE NAME THAT APPEARED ON THE MOST PROVINCIAL LISTS. THIS WOULD THEN BE THE PARTY'S CANDIDATE. THIS CANDIDATE'S BROAD PARTY AND NATIONAL SUPPORT WOULD BE EVIDENCED BY THE FACT THAT HIS NAME APPEARED ON THE MAJORITY OF PROVINCIAL PARTY LISTS. WHEN CHINDORI-CHININGA WAS ASKED WHETHER ZANU-PF WAS CONSIDERING HAVING A PARTY PRIMARY TO DETERMINE THE PARTY'S CANDIDATE FOR 2002, AS THEY HAD FOR PARLIAMENTARY SEATS IN THE 2000 ELECTIONS, HE DIDN'T HESITATE IN STATING NO.

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AMBASSADOR MCDONALD URGES CONFIDENCE BUILDING  
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16. (C) AMBASSADOR MCDONALD TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY OF THE MEETING WITH THIS YOUNGER UP-AND-COMING MEMBER OF ZANU-PF TO EXPRESS THE U.S. CONCERN WITH POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN ZIMBABWE AND TO STATE THAT NOW WAS THE TIME FOR ZANU-PF MPS AND MDC MPS TO WORK TOGETHER ON ISSUES OF COMMON NATIONAL INTEREST IN PARLIAMENT IN ORDER TO INCREASE DIALOGUE AND DECREASE TENSIONS. THE AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT THAT THE SITUATION IN ZIMBABWE WAS EVEN MORE TENSE AFTER THE RECENT FOOD RIOTS, AND THAT THIS WAS THE IMAGE THAT THE WORLD WAS GETTING OF ZIMBABWE, A NATION DESCENDING INTO CHAOS AND VIOLENCE. THE DEPUTY MINISTER STATED THAT HE SHARED THE AMBASSADOR'S CONCERN AND THAT HE AND OTHER ZANU-PF MPS WERE TRYING TO BUILD BRIDGES TO MPS OF THE MDC, BOTH WITHIN THE PARLIAMENTARY SETTING, AND IN OTHER SETTINGS. THE AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT TO CHINDORI-CHININGA THAT THE PORTFOLIO OF HIS MINISTRY, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM, WAS AN AREA THAT ESPECIALLY LENT ITSELF TO BIPARTISANSHIP, AND HE URGED THE DEPUTY MINISTER TO WORK IN THAT DIRECTION.

17. (C) COMMENT: WE SUSPECT THAT CHINDORI-CHININGA MAY BE DISSEMBLING ON THE GENERATIONAL DIVIDE THAT EXISTS IN THE PARTY AND DOWN PLAYING ITS AMBITION TO WREST CONTROL OF THE REINS OF POWER FROM THE OLD GUARD. AT THE MOMENT THERE IS LITTLE HEAD ROOM FOR THIS GROUP. END COMMENT.

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MCDONALD

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